

RECOGNIZING MS. MINNIE LOPEZ-BAFFO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Minnie Lopez-Baffo, the first Latina appointed to serve on the California Contractors State Licensing Board, as she completes her last term on the Board.

As a member of the California Contractors State Licensing Board since 1995, Ms. Lopez-Baffo has worked on legislation and consumer education committees utilizing her knowledge and expertise to educate and protect California consumers. While she served as Board Chair from July 2001 through June 2002, Ms. Lopez-Baffo was known as a fair and impartial leader and a dedicated guardian of the rights of consumers.

Ms. Lopez-Baffo is an exemplarily leader whose diligent work and dedication to her community inspired others to work hard. I am honored to call her my friend and I commend her for her vision and dedication to advocate on behalf of California's consumers.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on July 27th of last year this body made a bipartisan commitment to American workers who lose their jobs on account of international competition.

Part of this commitment was that the government would provide for 65 percent of their healthcare costs.

Another part of this commitment was that an insurer could not deny them coverage on account of their age, pre-existing conditions or any other arbitrary reason.

The bill under consideration today undermines these protections and allow insurers to arbitrarily avoid covering them.

The consumer protections that are law ensure everyone eligible for the tax credit can actually claim it, regardless of their age or health status.

Many who will qualify for the TAA benefit are older workers and retirees who are more likely to have significant health care needs.

Today's bill is particularly awful because it strips healthcare coverage from those who need it most.

This is not the time to revisit TAA, when commitments to the current program share broad bipartisan support and the current law has yet to be fully implemented.

I urge you to oppose this bill and reaffirm your commitment to the American worker.

TO HONOR JUNETEENTH

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juneteenth. The freedom to have a

family. The freedom to live anywhere. The freedom, simply, to have a last name. Those freedoms arrived June 19, 1865, to black slaves in Texas. While we celebrate Juneteenth in 2003, it is helpful to look back at our history to fully appreciate the great obstacles that many faced in their struggle to pursue life, liberty, and happiness.

While President Abraham Lincoln technically ended the right to own another human being in 1863, most slaves gained their freedom only when Union troops took control of Confederate territory and released them from forced bondage. It took two and one-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation for the Union army to reach Texas. Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston and announced to the State's 200,000 slaves that they were free. They immediately erupted into a jubilant celebration, much like the Fourth of July.

Although Juneteenth originated in Texas, it is being celebrated throughout our Nation. Today, Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future.

Part of that assessment means looking at where we stand today. Americans, including African-Americans, face ever growing challenges. We face economic crisis and a lack of access to healthcare for millions of Americans. We must work together to make sure that workers make a living wage and that children get the healthcare they need.

As we look ahead, I challenge all of you to take this opportunity, while we honor the rich history of this celebration of freedom, to rededicate ourselves to the value of equal opportunity for all Americans. That is at the heart of Juneteenth and the American ideal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STRENGTHEN AMERICORPS PRO- GRAM ACT OF 2003

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act of 2003, to strengthen the Corporation for National and Community Service's AmeriCorps program. This bill will not only address the Corporation's recent accounting problems, but more importantly, it will protect and expand volunteer service opportunities in my State of Maryland and across our Nation. It is identical to S. 1276, which the Senate passed yesterday. S. 1276 was introduced by Senator Christopher Bond of Missouri and my colleague from Maryland, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and I appreciate their leadership. We must act now to save this important program.

The President has asked every American to volunteer in their communities and has made the AmeriCorps program a central vehicle in meeting volunteer needs. The AmeriCorps program can play an important and effective role in improving the lives of many Americans and communities it serves.

But I have heard from many of my constituents who are concerned about the potential cuts to the AmeriCorps program. If we fail to

act, next year's Maryland program will be slashed from 452 AmeriCorps members to 52 members. Nationwide the number of AmeriCorps members will be radically cut as well.

Maryland's 8th District, which I am proud to represent, has a highly successful AmeriCorps program, Project CHANGE. Project CHANGE was developed in conjunction with the President of Montgomery College, Charlene Nunley, the Superintendent of Schools for Montgomery County, Jerry Weast, and leaders from the County's non-profit, immigrant and business communities. If we don't act, it is likely that Montgomery County will lose Project CHANGE together with the great work that its 20 AmeriCorps members are performing on behalf of our neediest students and families.

TRIBUTE TO TINA ROBLES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Tina Robles of Grand Junction, Colorado just celebrated her 87th birthday, and as her family and friends mark the occasion, I would like to honor Tina here today.

Tina and her family embody the American dream. As Mexican-Americans, Sarah and her late husband Antonia raised their family to believe in the undying spirit of our great nation. They are proud of their dual heritage and have taught their kids that in order to succeed in America you need dedication, patience, and perseverance. At the same time, the family has maintained pride in their culture as Mexican-Americans, enriching this country while celebrating their diverse heritage. Today, Tina is the matriarch of a sizable extended family. With 14 children, 52 grandkids, 60 great-grandchildren, and even 5 great-great-grandkids, there is plenty of love to go around. However, even with so many relatives, Tina holds a special place in each of their hearts—I know they each join me in celebrating her 87 years.

Mr. Speaker, Tina Robles's ability to raise a large, loving, and successful family exemplifies the characteristics that helped build this great country. I am truly honored to recognize her here today. I congratulate Tina for her success, wish her a happy birthday, and thank her for being such an outstanding role model for today's families. So what happened? The reason is simple—last year, the Corporation over-enrolled the AmeriCorps program by more than 20,000 and the Bush Administration took money from the National Service Education Trust, which is used to pay the education stipends of AmeriCorps members following their service. The OMB and GAO have declared that this money must be paid back using the coming year's appropriated funds.

The GAO has identified several factors that led to the Corporation's incorrect accounting practice. The factors included inappropriate obligation practices, little or no communication among key Corporation executives, too much flexibility given to grantees regarding enrollments, unreliable data on the number of AmeriCorps participants, and not following the law in recording its legal liabilities.

This legislation will help address the AmeriCorps problem, at least in the short term. It creates a budgeting mechanism that ensures the Corporation has the funds needed to pay educational awards. Under this bill, the Corporation would be able to enroll about 50,000 AmeriCorps members, without the need for additional funds.

We now know that recording obligations based on the approved level of AmeriCorps members in the program does not reflect the true performance of the program. Not all AmeriCorps volunteers successfully complete service, and not all AmeriCorps members who do complete service use their educational award benefit. Accordingly, this bill allows the Corporation to fund AmeriCorps grants based on estimates of the number of members who will likely complete and use their education award. Further, the bill requires an annual actuarial audit of the National Service Trust to ensure that the Federal Government is able to meet its liabilities. The bill also requires the chief executive officer to certify that the Corporation has properly recorded and tracked its obligations.

We should pass this legislation as quickly as possible. Without it, uncertainty and disagreement will delay and limit the enrollment of AmeriCorps volunteers. Considering the demand and the need for this program, we cannot afford to wait.

But I need to emphasize that this is not a permanent solution. We must restore the proper level of funding to allow AmeriCorps to operate at full strength. We must restore funding for both the National Service Education Trust and the AmeriCorps program. America's communities need AmeriCorps today more than ever, and the talented and dedicated AmeriCorps members need to receive their education stipends following their service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROSE J.
CAMPBELL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator and dear friend, Dr. Rose J. Campbell. An exceptional constituent and a dedicated member of the education community, Dr. Campbell is a true shining star.

Receiving her Bachelors Degree from Florida A&M University, her Masters in Education from William Patterson College, and her Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University, Dr. Campbell has succeeded in every facet of education. From 1968 to the present, Dr. Campbell has been an active member of the Newark Public School System. Beginning her career as a classroom teacher and moving through the ranks to her current position within the Administration as Assistant Executive Superintendent with a specialty in supervision and curriculum, Dr. Campbell has dedicated her life to education.

In addition to her dedication within the classroom, Dr. Campbell has also involved herself with giving back to the community in many other ways. Dr. Campbell is President of the Florida A&M University Alumni Association New Jersey Chapter, President of the New

Jersey Unit of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Inc., President of the Board of Directors for Day Nurseries Inc. as well as a member of Trinity/St. Phillips Cathedral Church. In each of her civic and community endeavors, Dr. Campbell makes a difference by her devoted and committed participation.

As a member of the Education & the Workforce Committee here in the U.S. House of Representatives I am extremely aware of the growing need for quality educators in our public school systems. Dr. Campbell sets a shining example for our younger generations of the success they can achieve and of the way in which they too can one day aspire to give back to their community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in saluting Dr. Rose J. Campbell for her many years of dedicated service as an educator and in wishing her the very best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KIM SPALSBURY
OF GRAND LEDGE, MICHIGAN,
EXCEPTIONAL TEACHER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, education is the key for our Nation's future prosperity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement rests partly in the hands of our teachers. Today I would like to recognize a teacher from Grand Ledge, Michigan that most influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership that were winners of the LeGrand Smith scholarship.

Mr. Kim Spalsbury teaches government and American literature at Grand Ledge High School. He is credited for instilling in students an enthusiasm for the subject and for life itself. In one student's own words, "Mr. Spalsbury is dynamic, knowledgeable and puts forth a lot of extra effort." The respect and gratitude of his students speaks well of Mr. Spalsbury's ability to challenge young minds to stretch the mental muscles and strive to achieve the best that is in them.

Kim Spalsbury's excellence in teaching challenges and inspires students to move beyond the teen-age tendency toward surface study and encourage deeper thought and connections to the real world. No profession is more important in its influence and daily interaction with the future leaders of our community and our country, and Kim Spalsbury's impact on his students is certainly deserving of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Mr. Kim Spalsbury as a master teacher. We thank him for his continuing dedication to teaching and his willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students for leadership and success.

INTRODUCING THE EMERGENCY
WARNING ACT OF 2003

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation, the Emergency Warning Act of 2003, which would require the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Commerce to ensure that comprehensive, easily understood emergency warnings reach every American who may be at risk in any type of disaster. The bill instructs Commerce and DHS to work with the government agencies that currently issue warnings, with first responders, with private industry, and with the media to ensure that our emergency warning system informs the public when a disaster occurs.

We don't always know when a disaster will occur. However, we do know that we are all at risk for a natural disaster like a hurricane, or a man-made disaster like a terrorist attack. With the advances in technology, we can no longer rely on our televisions or radios to inform us if we need to evacuate our homes or businesses. It's time to utilize the available technology to ensure that all forms of communication are used to inform the public about emergency warnings.

DEATH TAX REPEAL
PERMANENCY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, we are once again debating a tax bill that hopefully will never see the light of day in the other body. Here in the House, we have repeatedly cut taxes for the wealthiest few, while our deficit has exploded and we have ignored the countless priorities that our nation currently faces.

That's what this debate is really about. It's about priorities. Their priority is to help the wealthiest few. I am proud to say that I do not share the Majority's priorities.

My priorities include our disabled veterans. If we didn't pass this bill, we could possibly pass the concurrent receipt legislation.

My priorities include a fair Child Tax Credit to help the working poor who make between \$10,000 and \$27,000.

My priorities include providing decent housing and a quality education for our military families.

My priorities include a fiscally sound economic growth plan that creates more jobs by building more roads, bridges and updating our crumbling schools.

Unfortunately, by passing H.R. 8, we cannot begin to address the nation's real priorities.

Mr. Speaker, while I support reducing the tax burden on working families whenever possible, I believe H.R. 8 badly misses the mark. As written, H.R. 8 would add \$80 billion per year to the ever-growing federal deficit. While we are permanently eliminating the tax paid on the largest 2 percent of estates, we are